SEMINAR AGENDA

Monday, April 27

Theme: Introduction to Health Care Ethics

8:00 – 8:30  Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 8:45  Welcome and Overview (Dave Unger and John Brozovich)

8:45 – 9:30  Introduction to Health Care Ethics (Dave Unger)

  Learning Objectives

  • Overview of ethics as a discipline
  • Introduction to theories of health care ethics (utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics)
  • Major principles of health care ethics (autonomy, non-maleficence, beneficence, justice)
  • Integrating theories and practice – challenges and strategies

9:30 – 10:30  Using an Ethical Decision-Making Framework (Jenny Young)

  Learning Objectives

  Using a case example, review:

  • The importance of an ethical framework
  • Defining an ethical decision
  • The process to reach an ethical decision
  • The role of values, worldview, principles, facts, and risk.

10:30 – 10:45  Refreshment Break

10:45 – 11:45  Group Discussion: Identifying Ethical Dilemmas and Using a Framework
Learning Objectives

- Utilizing, both their own, and prepared case examples, participants will learn how to recognize and define ethical dilemmas, noting the possible principles in conflict and how the ethical concerns might be analyzed and approached.

Facilitators: Patricia Rodney, Dave Unger, Jenny Young

11:45 – 1:00  Lunch on your own

1:00 – 2:00  Moral Distress and Courage (Patricia Rodney)

Learning Objectives

- Challenges involved in taking action when one’s ability to do what is right is constrained by structural barriers (e.g., institutional policy, funding structure).
- What happens when there is incoherence between one’s beliefs and one’s options or actions
- Practical strategies for overcoming barriers and implementing the chosen ethical action despite potential adversity

2:00 – 3:00  Leadership Ethics (Terry Anderson)

Learning Objectives

Those in health care with leadership and administrative responsibilities face ethical challenges that call forth distinctive aspects of the standard ethical ingredients operative in health care. Using a case study this session will identify these features and introduce an ethical framework for applying them

3:00 – 3:15  Refreshment Break

3:15 – 4:00  Group Discussion: Addressing Moral Distress in Clinical and Leadership Situations

Learning Objectives

- Participants will reflect on their own work experiences and prepared cases to identify situations that cause moral distress.
- Participants will discuss how such situations can be turned into constructive opportunities to improve care and relationships – both in clinical and leadership roles

Facilitators: Terry Anderson, Patricia Rodney, Dave Unger, Jenny Young
Tuesday, April 28

Theme: Making Decisions

8:00 – 8:30  Continental breakfast

8:30 – 9:30  Autonomy and Capability (Katherine Duthie)

Learning Objectives

- Defining autonomy and its components
- Autonomy’s place in an ethical approach
- Challenges to the pre-eminence of autonomy in our culture
- What is paternalism
- Capability and how it is determined

9:30 – 10:30  Informed consent and truth telling (Kim Taylor)

Learning Objectives

- The history of informed consent including some of the historical situations and cases that drove its development
- Exceptions to the need for informed consent
- The difference between informed consent for clinical interventions and consent for research
- The importance of truth telling and any exceptions to telling the truth

10:30 – 10:45  Refreshment Break

10:45 – 11:45  Group Discussion: Complexities of Respect for Autonomy and Informed Consent

Learning Objectives

Using cases from rehabilitation, acute, and residential care, participants will discuss the challenges of and how to consider and apply the principles of autonomy, informed consent, and truth telling.

Facilitators: Katherine Duthie, Kim Taylor, Dave Unger, Jenny Young

11:45 – 1:30  Lunch Reception for all participants and presenters

1:30 – 2:30  Substitute decision-making (Lori d’Agincourt)

Learning Objectives

- To understand the purpose/goal of substitute decision-making
• To identify who can make substitute medical decisions and the standards upon which these decisions should be made
• To discuss challenges to substitute decision-making from the perspectives of patients, their families (substitute decision-makers) and the health care team
• To consider how a relational-contextual approach can add further guidance to substitute decision-making

2:30 – 3:30 Are There Limits to Patient Choice?
Ethical Tensions in Care Providers Denying Treatment (Duncan Steele)

Learning Objectives

• Participants can name at least two arguments for limiting a patient’s autonomous choices
• Participants can clearly explain rationale for limiting patient choice to others

3:30 – 3:45 Refreshment Break

3:45 – 4:30 Group Discussion: Unique Challenges When Making Decisions for Others

Learning Objectives

Participants will discuss cases where there is team disagreement with the substitute decision-maker and issues of futility are raised.

Facilitators: Lori d’Agincourt, Duncan Steele, Dave Unger, Jenny Young

Wednesday, April 29

Theme: Approaches to Life Altering Situations and End of Life

8:00 – 8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30 – 11:45 Difficult Conversations (Paul Whitehead and Hilary Pearson)

Learning Objectives

An informative and experiential session regarding:

• Types of difficult conversations in health care including imparting life-altering news, inquiring about wishes regarding end of life
• Important skills in having these conversations including listening, understanding the perspective of the patient, not trying to quickly resolve controversy, conflict resolution
9:45 –10:00 Refreshment Break

10:00-11:45 Difficult Conversations (continued)

11:45 – 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 2:00 Cases in law relating to end of life (Camille Ciarniello)

Learning Objectives

- Review of important legal cases including Golubchuk, Rotaru, and Rasouli.
- How these cases impact on health care providers’ decision making at end of life

2:00 – 3:00 End of Life Ethics: What health care providers should know (Romayne Gallagher)

Learning Objectives

- Advance care planning and goals of care discussions: what they can and can't do
- Understand the difference between withholding and withdrawing care
- Physician assisted suicide, euthanasia, physician assisted death: what are the controversies?

3:00 – 3:15 Refreshment Break

3:15 – 4:00 Group Discussion: Life and Death Decisions

Learning Objectives

Using a case regarding family, end of life, and a diverse cultural background, participants will integrate the three presentations and identify the important considerations in having a conversation with this family. Strategies that can facilitate responsive care and foster effective communication in a multicultural health-care setting will be incorporated.

Facilitators: Romayne Gallagher, Kim Taylor, Dave Unger, Jenny Young

Thursday, April 30

Theme: Unique Areas of Ethics

8:00 – 8:30 Continental breakfast

8:30 – 9:30 Public Health Ethics (Dave Unger)
Learning Objectives

- The differences between public health ethics and clinical ethics: individual versus public good.
- Some of the important public health issues historically and of our time
- An approach to decision-making in public health

9:30 – 10:30 Maternal/Fetal Ethical Issues (Alice Virani)

Learning Objectives

- Understanding the moral and legal status of the fetus
- Considering the needs of both the mother and fetus when they are intertwined
- Resolving 'maternal fetal conflict'

10:30 – 10:45 Refreshment Break

10:45 – 11:45 Ethicist Panel Discussion (Dave Unger, Alice Virani, Jenny Young, Michael Panicola, Rachelle Barina, Hazel Markwell)

Learning Objectives

- Review of issues gathered from participants through the course of the seminar
- Ensure that issues of concern to participants which have not been covered are discussed

11:45 – 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 – 2:30 Ethics and Big Data in the Era of Population Health Management (Michael Panicola and Rachelle Barina)

Learning Objectives

- Participant will gain an understanding of Big Data and the implications for ethical decision making and ethical policy making
- Big Data and merging data sets will be shown to have ethical implications both in terms of rights and obligations

2:30 – 2:45 Refreshment Break

2:45 – 3:45 Stigma, Mental Illness: An Ethical Perspective (Hazel Markwell)

Learning Objectives
• Gain an understanding of the debate on and the nature of human dignity as a concept.
• Gain insight into the relationship between stigma in mental health and human dignity.

3:45 – 4:00  Closing Remarks and Evaluation